

Application No.: 09/821,428

Docket No.: JCLA5383

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The drawings (FIG. 5) and Specification are objected to because of typographical errors. The Office Action objected claim 11 because of typographical error. The Office Action objected claims 2, 12, 15 and 16 because of insufficient antecedent basis. Further, the Office Action rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kozaki (U.S. 5,838,677). The Office Action rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazaki in view of Chiou (U.S. 6,577,625). The Office also objected claims 2-10, 12-15 and 17-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended the drawing and the specification to overcome the objection and have amended claims 2-10, 12-15 and 17-20 for not being dependent upon a rejected base claim and for correcting typographical errors and antecedent basis. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-10, 12-15 and 17-20 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of objections and rejections**[Discussion of Objections]**

According to the Office Action, the drawings, specification and claims are amended such that the Applicants correct the typographical errors therein.

[Discussion of 102 Rejections]

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The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Kozaki (U.S. 5,838,677). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131. However, Kozaki does not teach the technique feature of "...each output port has a number of reserved buffering units which are not used by any other output port ..." as claimed in claims 1 and 11. Although the Office Action asserted each output queue has a number of reserved buffering units (Page 5, lines 3-5 in the First Office Action), Kozaki does not teach that these reserved buffering units are not used by other queues. Accordingly, Kozaki does not anticipate claims 1 and 11 and claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited reference.

The amendment is based on the description made in the specification. As described in the specification, each output queue has a number of reserved buffering units, each output queue has a one-to-one correspondence with the port control devices, and each port control device has a one-to-one correspondence with the ports. Accordingly, each port has a one-to-one correspondence with the output queue and therefore has a number of reserved buffering units.

[Discussion of 103 Rejections]

The Office Action rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazaki in view of Chiou (U.S. 6,577,625). However, Kazaki does not teach the technique feature of "...each output port has a number of reserved buffering units which are not used by any other output port ..." as claimed in claim 11 upon which claim 16 depends. It is obvious that combination of Kozaki and Chiou does not teach the technique feature, either. Accordingly,

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claim 16 is patentable over the cited references even Chiou teaches the technique features as stated in the Office Action.

As mentioned in the Office Action, claims 2-10, 12-15 and 17-20 are patentable over the cited references. Further, claims 1, 11 and 16 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, all pending-claims 1-20 should be patentable over the prior arts and therefore should be allowed.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent claims 1 and 11 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-10 and 12-20 patently define over the prior art as well.

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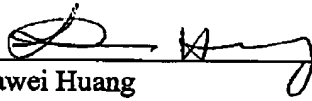
CONCLUSION

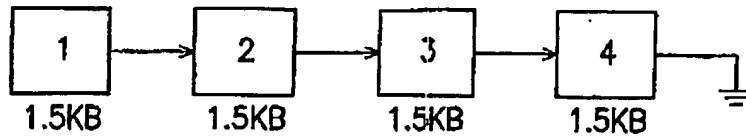
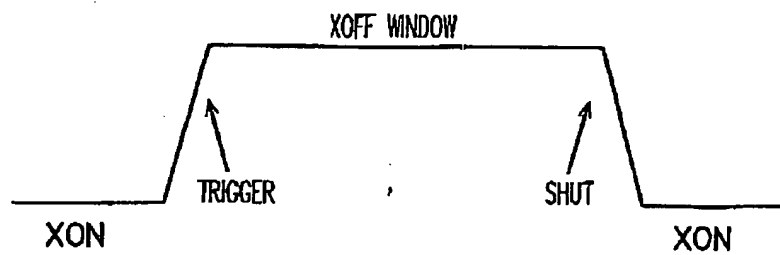
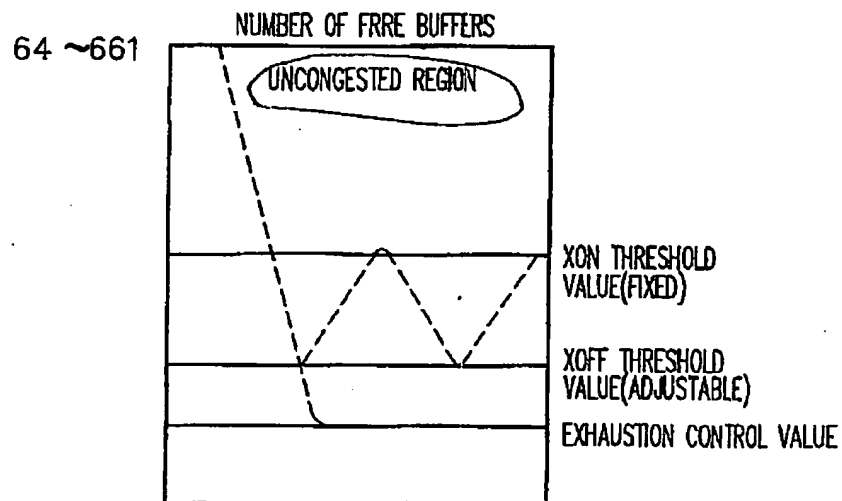
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-20 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Annotated Marked-up drawing**FIG. 3****FIG. 4****FIG. 5**